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**M. L. King, Jr. Historic Site Readies for Presidential Visit on Dr. King's 75<sup>th</sup> Birthday**

**(January 14, 2004—Atlanta)** President George W. Bush will visit Atlanta's Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, paying respects to Dr. King on what would have been the slain civil rights leader's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday.

President Bush's January 15<sup>th</sup> visit will include a meeting with Mrs. Coretta Scott King and other officials of the King Center for Nonviolent Social Change, the King family-run nonprofit agency located within the geographic boundaries of the King Historic Site. The president will then lay a wreath at Dr. King's tomb.

Historic Ebenezer Baptist Church, Freedom Hall and the Visitor Center Rose Garden Plaza will close at 2:30pm on January 15<sup>th</sup> in preparation for the President's visit and will reopen by 4:30pm. All other areas of the park (the Visitor Center, Dr. King's Birth Home, and Fire Station No. 6) will remain open.

Earlier in the day, the Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site will celebrate Dr. King's 75<sup>th</sup> birthday with a focus on youth. Nearly 200 schoolchildren from A. D. Williams Elementary and Leslie J. Steele Elementary Schools in Atlanta will converge on the historic site to learn about young "M.L."—the child who grew up in Atlanta's Sweet Auburn community, worshiped at historic Ebenezer Church and dreamed of an integrated nation.

The King Historic Site welcomes guest storybook reader Mrs. Christine King Farris, Dr. King's sister, as she reads from her children's book *My Brother Martin: Memoirs of a Childhood with Martin Luther King, Jr.* Afterwards, the children will join Mrs. Farris and park rangers as she cuts the first slices of Dr. King's birthday cake at 12 noon, the actual time of Dr. King's birth 75 years ago.

The Martin Luther King, Jr. National Historic Site, located just 1.5 miles east of Downtown Atlanta, memorializes one of America's most revered civil rights leaders. Established as a national park in October 1980, the King historic site preserves and interprets the Auburn Avenue neighborhood where Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. was born, lived, worked, worshiped and is buried. The national park is one of Atlanta's top visitor destinations drawing more than 666,000 visitors in 2003. All attractions are free.

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